CLAIMS:

1.   Device for recording information on a record carrier of a re-writable type by
writing marks in a track on a recording layer via a beam of radiation,
-    the recording layer comprising a pre-track pattern (14) indicating the position of the
     track,
5   -   the device comprising
-    a head (22) for providing the beam,
-    recording means (20,28,29) for recording the information in the track according to a
     predefined recording format for constituting a recording area containing user data
     preceded by a lead-in zone located at the start of the recording layer, and
10   -   formatting means (36) for formatting the record carrier, the formatting comprising
     -    writing data on the record carrier indicating that the recording area does not
          contain user data, and
     -    providing on the record carrier status information indicating a size of a
          contiguously written area that extends from the beginning of the recording area in
15   dependence on detecting a pre-existing contiguously written area that extends
          from the beginning of the recording area.

2.   Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formatting means (36) are arranged
for said detecting by retrieving status information indicating a size of a contiguously written
20   area that extends from the beginning of the recording area.

3.   Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formatting means (36) are arranged
for said providing by maintaining status information indicating a size of a contiguously
written area that extends from the beginning of the recording area in the event of a previously
25   written record carrier.

4.   Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formatting means (36) are arranged
for said providing by maintaining status information in the lead-in zone relating to de-icing
and resetting a control parameter indicating the end of the user data.

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5.   Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formatting means (36) are arranged
for said detecting by detecting if the record carrier contains written data in the recording area,
and if not, setting the size of the pre-existing contiguously written area to zero.

6.   Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formatting means (36) are arranged
for recording a shortened lead-in starting at a shifted starting position beyond a predefined
starting position and/or ending at position before a predefined ending position, in particular
the predefined recording format being DVD and the shifted starting position being 23.4 mm
radial.

7.   Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formatting means (36) are arranged
for said writing data on the record carrier indicating that the recording area does not contain
user data by writing dummy data in at least one predetermined address range used for storing
file system data, in particular the dummy data being zero data.

8.   Device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the formatting means (36) are arranged
for said writing dummy data in a first predetermined address range at the beginning of the
recording area and/or a second predetermined range at the end of the recording area as the at
least one predetermined range of addresses, in particular the first and second ranges being
predetermined based on address ranges known to be used for file system data by a plurality of
file system versions.

9.   Method of recording information on a record carrier of a writable type by
writing marks in a track on a recording layer via a beam of radiation,
          -   the recording layer comprising a pre-track pattern (14) indicating the position of
              the track,
          -   the method comprising
          -   recording the information in the track according to a predefined recording format
              for constituting a recording area containing user data preceded by a lead-in zone
              located at the start of the recording layer, and
          -   formatting the record carrier, the formatting comprising
              -   writing data on the record carrier indicating that the recording area does not
                  contain user data, and

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- providing on the record carrier status information indicating a size of a contiguously written area that extends from the beginning of the recording area in dependence on detecting a pre-existing contiguously written area that extends from the beginning of the recording area.

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10.   Computer program product for recording information, which program is operative to cause a processor to perform the method as claimed in claim 9.